TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

GHANA

(Republic of Ghana)

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Ghana

Capital: Accra

Population: 18,887,626 (est)

Type of government: Constitutional Dem

Head of government: Pres Jerry John Ra

Official language(s) English

Economy: Agirculture based, twice the wealth of other west African

Religions: Indigenous (38%), Islam (30%), Christian (24%)

TRAVEL

ENTRY INFORMATION

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Accra

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: Ring Road East, Accra
Tel: 233-21-775-348 ext 283 FAX: 233-21-765-462

Transportation: Public transportation: Fair. The safety standard
private buses that transit roads and highways are uncertain. Tr
encouraged to consider this when making travel arrangements

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Most primary roads are generally paved and well maintained. However, roads outside the major cities are in poor condition. The road from Accra to the central region tourist area of Cape Coast

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passports and visas. Military personnel on leave and other US citizens visiting Ghana are urged to contact the Embassy Consular Section (phone: 776-601/2 or 776-944) to inform the Embassy of their address and duration of stay. Passports and visas are required for all personnel on both official and unofficial travel. All US personnel traveling to Ghana must obtain a valid Ghanaian visa from the Ghana diplomatic mission nearest their place of residence. Identification cards

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. There are strict security checks for arriving and departing personnel. Individuals are searched; therefore, it is essential that only authorized items are in luggage.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: camera and film, jewelry, portable typewriter, cigarette lighter, electric razor, record player and records, 50 cigars or 200 cigarettes or 1 pound of tobacco (not to exceed 1 pound combined), and 1 quart of liquor. Travelers arriving with electronic equipment, particularly video cameras and laptop computers, may be

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Facilities for tourism are available in the population centers of the greater Accra region, Kumasi in the Ashanti region, and in the Cape Coast area of the Central region but are limited in the more remote areas of the country.

Dual nationality is not recognized except for minors under 21 years of age. A dual national who enters Ghana with a Ghanaian passport will be treated as a Ghanaian citizen. If a dual national Ghanaian-American enters Ghana on a Ghanaian passport and is later arrested for any reason while in Ghana, the Amembassy normally is not notified of the arrest by Ghanaian authorities. Consular assistance for dual US-Ghanaian citizens is limited. Taking pictures near sensitive installations, including military sites and government buildings, is prohibited. In some instances, film and cameras have been confiscated. Photographs of Accra's International airport are prohibited. Do not bring firearms without prior Embassy approval.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Visitors entering Ghana with more than $5,000 US dollars in cash are required to declare the amount upon entry into Ghana. Currency exchange is available at most banks and at licensed Foreign Exchange Bureaus. Currency transactions with private citizens are illegal. . Foreign currency must be declared upon arrival. Currency in excess of that declared is subject to confiscation. It is illegal to import or export Ghanaian currency in excess of 5,000 cedis. There is no limit on import of other currency. Exchange dollars for cedis at American Embassy Disbursing Office, banks, hotels and other authorized institutions only. Cedis can be reconverted to other currency before departing Ghana. Business fraud stemming from Nigerian scam operations targets foreigners, including Americans, and poses a danger of financial loss and physical harm. Persons contemplating business deals in Ghana with individuals promoting investment in Nigeria, especially the Central Bank of Nigeria or the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, are strongly

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries .

Availability of medical services: Poor.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Ghana. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor

Health Precautions: Ghana is considered a cholera, typhoid, and yellow fever infected area. Yellow fever vaccination required of all travelers.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, meningococcal vaccine, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Ghana. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Travelers should obtain an adequate supply of malaria suppressants and begin use at least two weeks before arrival in Ghana. Chloroquine alone is not sufficient. Malarial suppressants normally are not available in Ghana. Fresh vegetables should be washed and disinfected. Water should be boiled at least 20 minutes before drinking. Do not swim in fresh water because of danger of schistosomiasis. U.S. citizens should avoid political rallies and street demonstrations. Travel in darkness, particularly outside the major cities, is extremely hazardous, due to poor street lighting and the unpredictable behavior of pedestrians, bicyclists and farm animals. Travelers are routinely stopped at police checkpoints throughout Ghana. Automobiles and passengers may be searched. Drivers

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Pickpocketing, purse snatching, and various types of scams are the most common forms of crime confronting visitors. U.S. travelers have reported instances of these types of theft in crowded market areas, beaches and parks, and at tourist attractions. Travelers who limit their display of jewelry and handle their cash discreetly reduce their vulnerability to crime. In recent years, U.S. citizens have reported substantial financial losses from questionable transactions involving gold and other precious metals. The Government of Ghana maintains strict regulations on these natural resources. All agents must be licensed and all

Ghana is strict on: import/export of precious metals. . The government of Ghana maintains strict regulations on the import and export of gold, diamonds and other precious natural resources. Only agents licensed by the Precious Metals and Mining Commission, telephone (233)(21)664-635 or 664-579, may handle import-export transactions of these natural resources. Any transaction lacking this commission's

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Civilian clothing should be worn in Ghana. Except for accredited attaches, Ghanaian law prohibits the wearing of uniforms by foreign military personnel without the specific authority of the Ghana government. The wearing of any military apparel, such as camouflage jackets or pants, or any clothing or items which may appear military in nature, is strictly prohibited. Washable suits and cotton shirts are recommended.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

GHANA